

Master Resource List

Federal Student Aid Information Center

Provides counselors, students, and families with information about federal financial aid programs and answers questions about financial aid and completing the FAFSA.

1-800-4-FED-AID or 1-800-433-3243, 1-800-730-8913 (TTY)
studentaid@ed.gov

Web Sites

www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov

FSA for Counselors provides basic college access and financial aid information for middle school, high school, and TRIO counselors. Features include the *Counselors and Mentors Handbook*, other federal student aid publications (with instructions on how to download or order them), training information, and scripts and slides for presenting a financial aid night. Click on “Network & Potential Partnerships” in the Counselor Resources section to learn about associations that support your work and to access a search tool to help you find TRIO programs around the country.

What you can download or print from this site:

- PDF FAFSA
- *Counselors and Mentors Handbook*
- *Finding Money for College*, a PowerPoint presentation introducing basic concepts of financial aid and the FAFSA process
- *Application Form Tracking Worksheet*, which allows students to track the various pieces of their college applications
- *Award Package Comparison Worksheet*, which allows students to compare and contrast financial aid award letters from various colleges
- *Cost of Attendance Comparison Worksheet*, which allows students to compare and contrast the costs of different colleges
- *Financial Aid Application Checklist*, which allows students to track the different parts of their financial aid application
- *Financial Aid Consultants and Scholarship Search Services Fact Sheet*, which provides information on consultants and scholarship searches, and tips to avoid being scammed
- *Foster Youth FAFSA Tips*, which provides tips to help foster youth complete the FAFSA
- *Glossary of Financial Aid Terms*, which provides definitions of many financial aid terms for counselors, students, and families
- *Sample Scholarship Inquiry Letter*, which gives students language and format to request scholarship information

An image of the home page of *FSA for Counselors* is provided in your participant materials, along with text describing more features of the site.

www.StudentAid.ed.gov

Web site for students that provides information on federal aid programs, a college search, a scholarship search, a career interest inventory, and links to FAFSA and PIN sites.

What is available from this Web site:

- Fact sheets, such as *How Do I Apply for Federal Student Aid*, *Who is My "Parent" When I Fill Out the FAFSA*, and *Why Get a Federal Student Loan*. The fact sheets are also part of the *Counselors and Mentors Handbook*.
- *Federal Aid First*, a new brochure that explains the difference between federal student aid and private loans
- *Start Here, Go Further With Federal Student Aid: Money for Education Beyond High School*, a video program explaining the federal student aid programs and application process
- *Start Here, Go Further: Money for Higher Education*, a Spanish-language video program explaining the federal student aid programs and application process
- PDF FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov

What is available at this site:

FAFSA.ed.gov is the Web site where students complete and submit *FAFSA on the Web*. Students and families may also print the *FAFSA on the Web Worksheet* from the site. After submitting the FAFSA, students may use this site to check the status of their application, view processing results, and submit corrections.

<http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/>

What is available on this site:

If students want to begin exploring their financial aid options and get an early start on the financial aid process, FAFSA4caster is for them! By using FAFSA4caster, students and families will receive an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid. This Web site provides students with an opportunity to increase their knowledge of the financial aid process; become familiar with the various types of federal student aid that are available; and investigate other sources of aid, such as grants and scholarships.

When students are ready to apply for aid, they can easily transition from FAFSA4caster to *FAFSA on the Web*. Much of the information that students enter in the FAFSA4caster will populate the *FAFSA on the Web* application, making the experience of applying for federal student aid a lot easier.

www.pin.ed.gov

On this site, students and parents may apply for a Federal Student Aid Personal Identification Number, or FSA PIN. A FSA PIN allows students and parents to sign the FAFSA electronically. A FSA PIN will also allow students to access application information after they submit the FAFSA, sign and access other financial aid documents such as loan promissory notes, and access loan information after they leave college.

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/about/ac-smart/2007/state-programs-07.html>

On this Web site, counselors will find information about the programs approved by the Secretary of Education as rigorous secondary programs in each state. Completion of a rigorous secondary program is one criterion students must meet in order to be eligible for an Academic Competitiveness Grant, or ACG.

www.students.gov

Students.gov is the student gateway to the U.S. government. In addition to college and career resources, it provides information about the military, campus life, study resources, and information about the U.S. government.

<http://www.nasfaa.org/redesign/ParentsStudents.html>

The Parent and Student section of the NASFAA Web site provides a variety of helpful information.

What you can download or print from this site:

- *The Credit Crunch and Student Loans: Don't React Before Getting the Facts*, a fact sheet that dispels common myths about the availability of student loans
- *Cash for College*, an on-line brochure that offers basic facts about the student financial aid programs which is updated annually
- *Parent and Student Guide to Federal Tax Benefits for Tuition and Fees*, provides guidance to help explain two tax credits offering federal income tax relief for college expenses-the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit-as well as available tax deductions for tuition and fees.
- *Becoming Credit-Wise: What Students (and You!) Should Know* is an article that was published in NASFAA's *Student Aid Transcript* magazine. While written for aid administrators, the article provides excellent guidance for students, who need to understand their student loans and manage their spending well. Understanding how credit works is an essential part of that, especially for students who must supplement their federal loans with private, credit-based loans.

www.collegegoalsundayusa.org/

College Goal Sunday is a program in over 30 states that helps students and families learn about financial aid and provides one on one help for completing the FAFSA.

www.collegeaccess.org

This site functions as a site for counselors, access advisors and mentors with vast resources for college access in general.

What you can download or print from this site:

- A resource guide for counselors that contains detailed financial aid information

www.finaid.org

This comprehensive Web site includes information about scholarships, loans, savings plans, and military aid. It also has information about other types of aid, aid applications, financial aid calculators, and an “Ask the Aid Advisor” feature for personalized assistance.

www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/index.html

This site has a wealth of resources for financial aid planning, aid calculators, loans, and the CSS Profile (additional aid form required by some colleges).

<http://www.tgslc.org/spanish/glossary/index.cfm>

What you can search on this site:

- A glossary that contains a comprehensive list of higher education related words, including financial aid terms, in Spanish.

www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

This Web site provides information on scholarship scams and an on-line complaint form.

What you can download or print from the sites:

- Fact sheets

Brochures and Handouts

The following brochures and handouts are included in your materials:

- *ACG/SMART Fact Sheet*

This fact sheet provides basic information about the ACG and National Sciences and Mathematics to Retain Talent (SMART) Grants.

- *Fraud Awareness Resources Fact Sheet*

This fact sheet lists places for counselors to find handouts, on-line information, and ways to report fraud.

- *FSA4counselors Brochure*

Highlights major features and services available on the FSA4counselors Web site

- *TEACH Grant Fact Sheet*

This fact sheet provides basic information about Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grants.

Other Resources

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Hotline

- Call the FTC to report financial aid and scholarship scams.
- 1-877-FTC-HELP

U.S. Department of Education Inspector General

- Contact the Inspector General to report financial aid fraud.
- www.ed.gov/misued
1-800-MIS-USED
Oig.hotline@ed.gov